

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /136 W
-----022084 010258Z /14

R 311411Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2334
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR ELECTRONICALLY

USEEC

USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, EEC, FR
SUBJ: MTN -- FRENCH VIEWS

REF: BRUSSELS 10438

1. PREVEL, OF THE FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY STAFF, HAS GIVEN MINECON A BRIEF, GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC READING ON THE MTN OUTLOOK. PREVEL PARTICIPATED WITH DE MOREL IN THE 113 COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS ON MAY 26. HE PROVIDED FEW DETAILS OF THE DELIBERATIONS. WHILE NO "DECISIONS" HAD BEEN TAKEN, THE EC COMMISSION HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONVEYED TO THE MEMBER STATES A GENUINE SENSE OF PROGRESS AND MOMENTUM.

2. ONE REASON PREVEL BELIEVES THE MTN IS ADVANCING IS THAT THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN GREATER PROGRESS THAN FRANCE EXPECTED ON CEREALS -- WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO RECENT CONSTRUCTIVE U.S.

POSITIONS. PREVEL WAS AWARE THAT, IN ADDITION TO BALANCED RESULTS ON GRAINS, THE U.S. WILL HAVE TO HAVE CERTAIN DIFFICULT EC TARIFF CONCESSIONS IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD. HE NOTED THAT ITALY IS LIKELY TO BE A TOUGHER PROBLEM THAN FRANCE ON SUCH KEY ITEMS AS CITRUS AND TOBACCO.

3. ON INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS, PREVEL SAID THAT FRANCE MAINTAINS ITS VIEW THAT MAINTENANCE OF PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY OFFER SHOULD BE LINKED TO SATISFACTION ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES. ON THE OTHER HAND, PREVEL THOUGHT THAT PROGRESS ON THE CODES HAD BEEN GOOD DESPITE REMAINING MAJOR PROBLEMS. AMONG THE LATTER, HE IDENTIFIED SUBSIDIES, PARTICULARLY STATE AIDS FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE STRICT LIMITS ON WHAT THE COMMUNITY COULD DO. OVERALL HE IMPLIED THERE WOULD BE A RESPECTABLE AVERAGE TARIFF REDUCTION EVEN IF SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THE U.S. WANTS.

4. CONCLUDING, PREVEL SAID THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE TARGET DATES FOR THE MTN CAN BE MET DESPITE THE SHORT TIME REMAINING. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED, HOWEVER, IF SOME LAST-MINUTE, TOUGH ISSUES HAD TO BE FACED AT SENIOR LEVELS.
HARTMAN

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NNN

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